

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MADRID 00229 150753Z

20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-10 IO-10 SAB-01 /099 W

----- 032811

R 141700Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 812

INFO US MISSION NATO 510

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LISBON

UNCLAS MADRID 229

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP

SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS ROUNDUP

1. SPANISH PRESS CONTINUES INTERMITTENT COMMENTARY ON
BASE NEGOTIATIONS, RANGING IN TONE FROM STUDIED RESERVE
TO UNRESTRAINED SENSATIONALISM.

2. SENSATIONALIST ARTICLE APPEARED IN JANUARY ISSUE OF
SPANISH CONSUMER REPORT "CUIDADANO" ENTITLED "THE BASES,
NUCLEAR OBJECTIVE, THIS IS THE RISK". ARTICLE PRECEDED
BY INTRODUCTORY PASSAGE IN LARGE TYPE: "4 BOMBS OF 150
MEGATONS: 8 MILLION SPANISH AFFECTED: 4 BOMBS OF 25
MEGATONS: 5 MILLION DEAD AND WOUNDED. RADIOACTIVE RAIN
COULD FALL ON ANY AREA."

3. ARTICLE CONTAINED TWO PHOTOS PURPORTEDLY DEPICTING
VICTIM OF RADIOACTIVITY RESULTING FROM PALOMARES INCIDENT,
AND "DEFORMED VICTIM" OF HIROSHIMA. TEXT OF ARTICLE
PROVIDES GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF HOW ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS
OF VARYING INTENSITIES WOULD AFFECT SPAIN. LAST PARA
INSISTS FOREGOING DESCRIPTION NOT "SCIENCE FICTION" BUT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MADRID 00229 150753Z

BASED ON STUDIES BY "EXPERTS". ARTICLE CONCLUDES: "LET

US REMEMBER THAT PRESIDENT NIXON PLACED ON ATOMIC ALERT ALL NORTH AMERICAN FORCES THROUGHOUT THE LAND HARDLY A YEAR AGO DURING THE LAST ARAB-ISRAELI WAR. AND WE: OFFICIALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE ARABS, COULD DISAPPEAR FROM THE MAP FOR HAVING BEEN THE BOOTLICKERS OF THOSE GENTLEMEN WHO DEFEND THE ISRAELIS."

4. ARTICLE IN JAN 9 EDITION OF MADRID DAILY "YA" SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRAINED. WRITING UNDERPSEUDONYM OF JUAN DE ESPANA (RUMORED TO BE SPANISH ARMY COLONEL ON ACTIVE DUTY), AUTHOR SEES NO PARTICULAR ADVANTAGE EITHER IN SPAIN'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO OR IN CONVERTING PRESENT AGREEMENT INTO DEFENSE TREATY. "DEFENSE TREATY IS INADEQUATE, UNOBTAINABLE, AND UNDESIRABLE OBJECTIVE WHOSE PURSUIT WOULD BE AT EXPENSE OF OTHER BENEFITS AND WOULD INCREASE ENEMIES AND RISKS WHICH THREATEN SPAIN, WITHOUT ACCORDING A PROPORTIONATE INCREASE IN BASIC SECURITY SPAIN PRESENTLY HAS. FOR OUR SECURITY, IN THOSE ASPECTS RELATED TO THE UNITED STATES, IT IS MORE GUARANTEED BY THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE BASES THAN BY REATIES OR AGREEMENTS ON WHOSE DEPENDABILITY HISTORY HAS PROVIDED SUFFICIENT LESSONS. TO JUSTIFY MY ATTITUDE NOT UNFAVORABLE TO RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENTS I WILL SAY THEIR DENUNCIATION WOULD NOT INCREASE OUR PROSPECTS OF ESCAPING UNHARMED IN A GENERALIZED CONFLICT."

5. SEVERAL SPANISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED COMMENTARIES BASED ON BENJAMIN WELLES ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR WHICH APPARENTLY ASSERTS THAT SPAIN IS DEMANDING AN "AUTOMATIC" SECURITY GUARANTEE ALONG THE LINES OF ARTICLE 5 OF THE NATO TREATY, BUT THAT WASHINGTON WILL NOT ACCEPT BECAUSE OF SPAIN'S CONFLICT WITH MOROCCO OVER THE SAHARA AND LIKELIHOOD IT WILL EVENTUALLY BE RESOLVED BY FORCE OF ARMS. COMMENTARY DESCRIBES VARIOUS LIABILITIES WELLES ATTACHES TO BASES IN SPAIN, NOTABLY THAT SOONER OR LATER U.S. WILL HAVE TO WITHDRAW ITS 500,000 TROOPS ASSIGNED ABROAD ANYWAY, THAT SPANISH BASES WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE IN CASE OF WAR IN MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT LIKELIHOOD OF WAR BETWEEN RABAT AND MADRID PRESENTS FUTURE HAZARD TO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MADRID 00229 150753Z

U.S. PRESENCE.

6. ATTACKING WELLES THESIS, COMMENTARY IN NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S ARRIBA STATES IT WAS U.S. WHICH FOR PAST 20 YEARS HAS DESIRED AND USED INSTALLATIONS IN SPAIN, NOT REVERSE. "AUTHOR WELLES) ONLY MENTIONS THOSE ELEMENTS CONSTITUTING EVENTUAL OBLIGATIONS ON PART OF AMERICANS IN CASSE OF A COMMITMENT ON LEVEL OF TREATY. HE DOES NOT MENTION NOR INDEED ASK

AS TO WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE IN MADRID'S INTEREST TO
GET RID OF THE AGREEMENTS AT A MOMENT WHEN THE DRUMS OF
WAR ARE THUNDERING IN WASHINGTON."

7. FINALLY, "ARRIBA" CORRESPONDENT FELIX ORTEGA, WRITING
FROM NEW YORK, ASSERTS THAT AT POINT OF SIGNING RENEWAL
OF BASE AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL OVER LAJES, STATEMENT
("BUSINESS WEEK") BY SECRETARY CONCERNING MIDDLE EAST CAN
ONLY SERVE (INTER ALIA) TO ALERT PORTUGUESE TO LIKELIHOOD
OF INVOLVEMENT IN MILITARY OPERATION. "WHILE SILENCE HAS
BEEN MAINTAINED RESPECTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN, IT IS
KNOWN--FOR IT CAME OUT SPECIFICALLY IN U.S. NEWS AND
WORLD REPORT--THAT SPAIN IS INCREASINGLY CONFRONTED BY
FOREIGN POLICY OF U.S. THE AMERICAN THESIS CONTINUES TO BE,
ACCORDING TO (US NEWS) THAT THE BASE RIGHTS ARE DECREASING
IN IMPORTANCE AS A RESULT OF THE RESTRICTIVE POLICIES OF
MADRID WITH RESPECT TO THEIR USE. BUT THE NAVAL BASE AT
ROTA CONTINUES TO BE CONSIDERED VITAL..."

8. ORTEGA CONTINUES THAT IMPORTANCE OF ROTA NOW IS "DUE--
ACCORDING TO WELL INFORMED SOURCES--NOT ONLY TO FACT IT
IS STOPPING POINT FOR NUCLEAR SUBMARINES BUT AS POSSIBLE
POINT FOR SUPPORT OF MILITARY RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL IN PEACE
TIME." ORTEGA THEN MAKES POINT THAT WASHINGTON HAS NO
ILLUSIONS CONCERNING SPANISH INTRANSIGENCE WITH RESPECT
TO RESUPPLY OPERATIONS FOR ISRAEL IN TIME OF WAR.
EATON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS, NEWSPAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID00229
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750015-0155
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750154/aaaabvvgg.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2003 by McShalBA>; APPROVED <17 FEB 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASE NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS ROUNDUP
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006